

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

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R 220712Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2952

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12695

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, HK, SNAR

SUBJECT: HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS ON NARCOTICS

REF: HONG KONG 12164

IN WAKE OF CONTINUING ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN BY HK POLICE, COMMUNIST PRESS IN PAST WEEK HAS GIVEN SURPRISINGLY HEAVY COVERAGE TO HONG KONG DRUG SITUATION. EMPHASIS IN LEFTIST PRESS, FOCUSING ON ESCAPE OF DRUG-KUNG KONG SUM CHUEN (3068-2773-3123) TO TAIWAN AND OF 20-ODD SMALLER FRY TO MACAU, DIFFERS MARKEDLY FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND OTHER CHINESE MEDIA COVERAGE. FACTS AS GIVEN IN TA KUNG PAO, WEN HUI PAO AND NEW EVENING POST ARE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE, NOTABLY THAT KONG SLIPPED OUT OF COLONY SOMETIME BETWEEN FIRST POLICE INTERROGATION AND SECOND POLICE EFFORT TO LOCATE HIM FOR QUESTIONING. COVERAGE INDICATES COMMUNIST PRESS DID OWN HOMEWORK ON MATTER, FERRETING OUT DETAILS OF KONG'S DEPARTURE FROM IMMIGRATION AND POLICE SOURCES (ENGLISH PRESS COVERAGE ON THIS ASPECT EXTREMELY TENUOUS IN COMPARISON, ARTICLES MENTIONING ONLY THAT TWO DRUG KINGS HAVE LEFT COLONY, AND ONE ITEM IN AFTERNOON TABLOID HEADLINING "ALLEGED DRUG BOSS FLIES TO TAIWAN?"). ONLY WEN HUI PAO DRIFTS INTO STRAIGHT EDITORIAL COMMENT, POINTING

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OUT IN NOV 19 ARTICLE THAT "VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE

ESCAPE TO TAIWAN OF YANG YEN-CH'ING (2799-3601-0613) AND OTHER
DRUG PEDDLERS, TAIWAN HAS ALREADY BECOME A HAVEN FOR DRUG PEDDLERS."

COMMENT: WHILE DEGREE OF COVERAGE AND FOCUS OF ARTICLES CONFIRMS
NEW PRACTICE BY HK COMMUNIST PRESS (REFTEL), EVEN MORE INTRIGUING
IS ARTICLES PRESENTATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING KONG'S
DEPARTURE, INDICATIVE OF EITHER INCREDIBLY SLOPPY POLICE SURVEILLANCE

,
OR POSSIBLY OF POLICE ACQUIESCE IN HIS DEPARTURE FOR TAIWAN.
LATTER CONCLUSION APPEARS TO BE SUPPORTED BY WORDING OF NOV 21
HK STANDARD ARTICLE, WHICH STATES, "AS THE TWO BOSSSES LEFT THE
COLONY, THEY WERE CHECKED ON THE KAI TAK WATCH-LIST AND
ANTI-DRUG AGENCIES ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE ALERTED." IF TRUE,
QUESTION ARISES WHY POLICE WILLING TO LET KONG GO
IF HE SUPPOSEDLY WANTED FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING.

TAIPEI WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT KONG WAS INDIRECTLY INVOLVED
IN MAY 1974 ASSAULT CASE ON PROMINENT AMCIT IN TAIPEI'S
CENTRAL HOTEL. TWO OF KONG'S ASSOCIATES TOOK PART IN ASSAULT.
CONGEN FILES INDICATE THAT NONE OF ASSAILANTS WAS CHARGED,
FINED OR IMPRISONED.

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